

The cited references, whether considered individually or in combination, neither disclose nor suggest the claimed invention. Brown shows a vest for emergency medical technicians which is of quite different construction and function. The vertical shoulder straps 17 of Brown's vest are adapted at their free ends for attachment to stretcher handles. Only the horizontal straps of Brown's vest are luminescent. Brown neither discloses nor suggests the particular arrangement of retroreflective strips for enhanced visibility of the wearer from all directions.

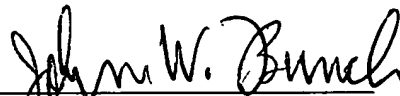
Addition of Fleming does not overcome these deficiencies. As with Brown's vest, Fleming's is of quite different construction and function. Fleming's vest includes a retroreflective strip only on the front, which is merely incidental to its purpose. Fleming neither discloses nor suggests the particular arrangement of retroreflective strips for enhanced visibility of the wearer from all directions.

In view of these distinctions, it is respectfully submitted that it would be completely unobvious to combine these references into the claimed invention. Any such attempt would require additional teachings neither contained nor suggested therein which could not possibly be obvious without exercising hindsight after having the benefit of applicant's disclosure. Even if these references were properly combinable, such would not result in the claimed invention. It is believed that this rejection has been overcome, withdrawal of which is respectfully requested.

The remaining references of record also have been carefully reviewed, however, the features of the claimed invention are nowhere disclosed or suggested therein.

In conclusion, it is respectfully submitted that the application as now presented is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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